


APPROCCI INTERDISCIPLINARI IN REUMATOLOGIA - 7a edizione

Malattie Reumatiche e Disordini Endocrino Metabolici

Torino
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Gotta: Diagnosi e Terapia



In the last 2 years, outside this committed work:
(Personal fees) Laborest Italia Srl, Hyppocrates Sintech
Srl, Pfizer, Grunenthal, Lilly, Roche.
(Grant) Italian Society of Rheumatology

Disclosure

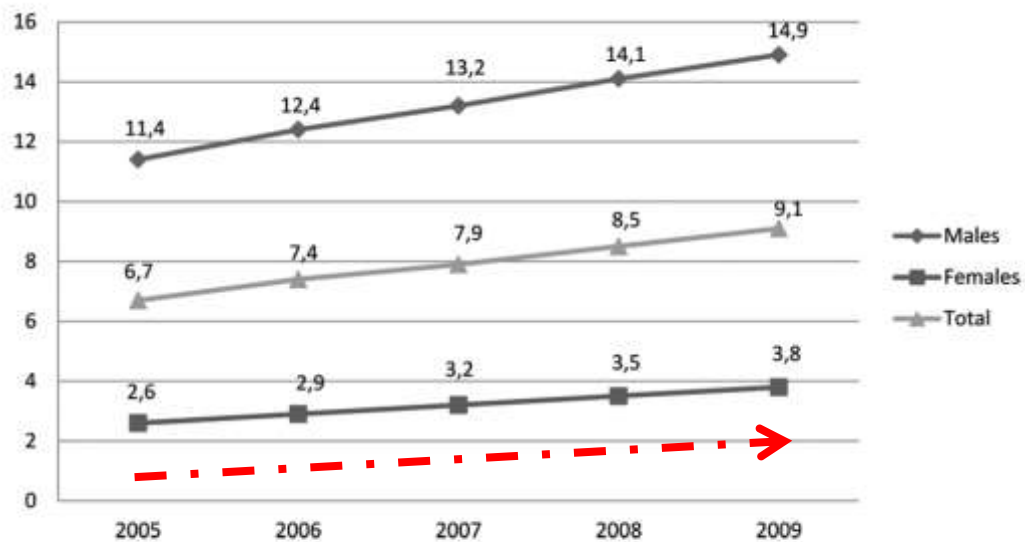
Why
do we still
need to talk
about this?



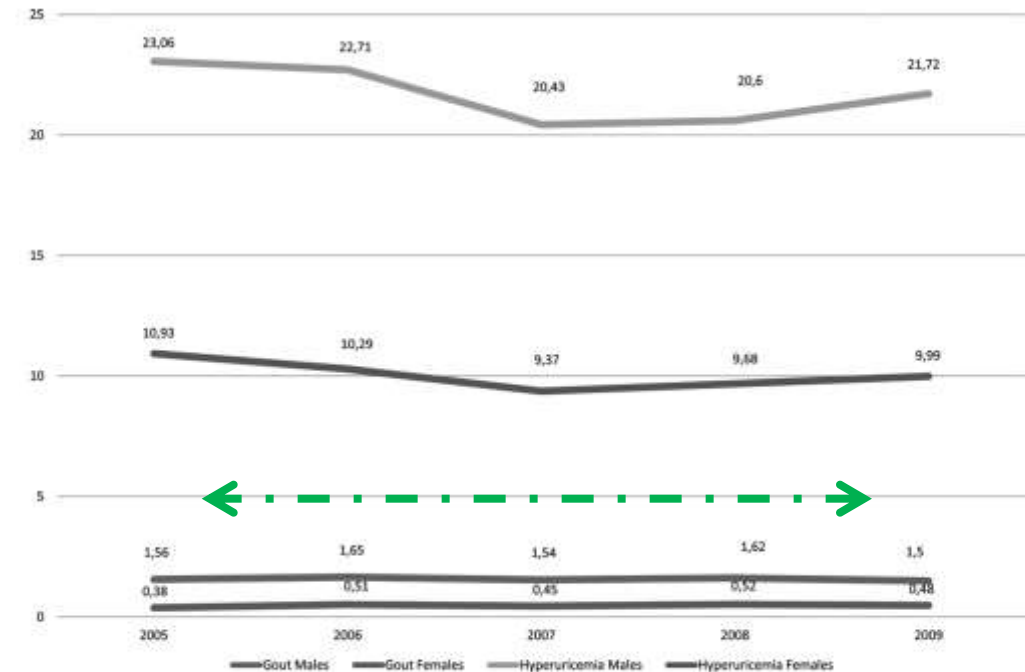
Gout: Diagnosis

Epidemiology of gout in Italy (2005-2009)

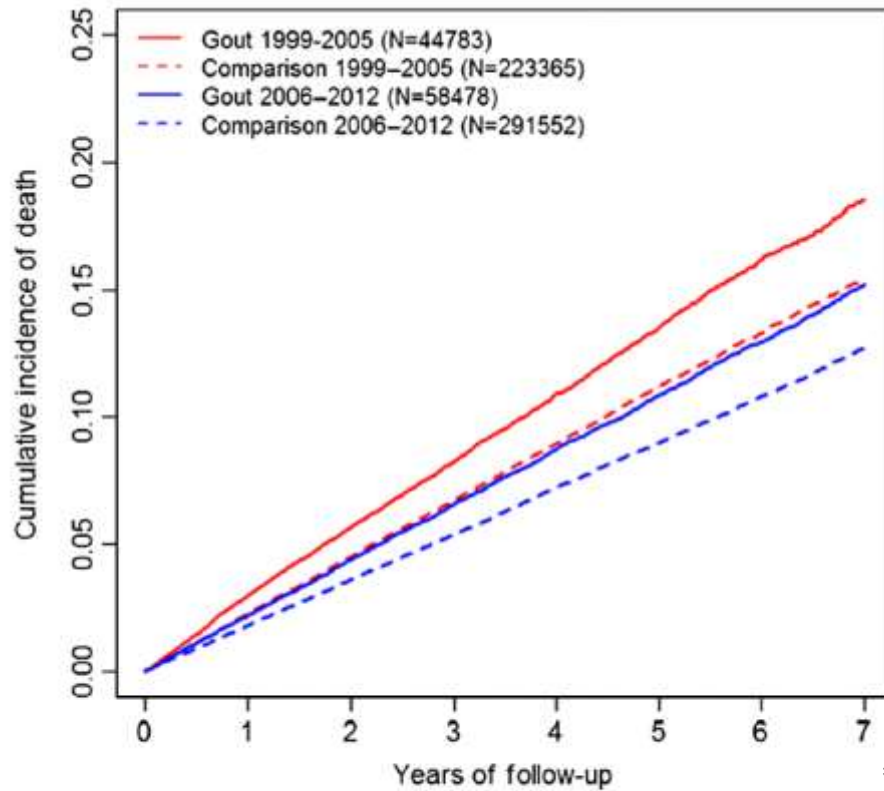
Prevalence (per 1000 inhabitants)



Incidence (per 1000 person-year)

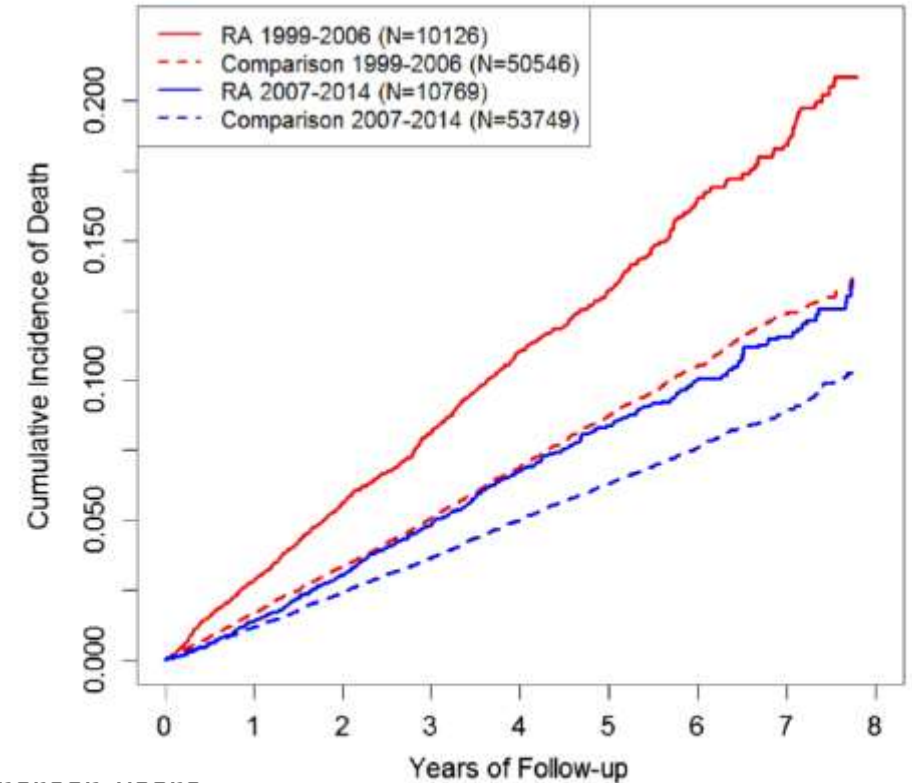


Unclosing premature mortality gap



*per 1000 person-years

Fisher MC, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2017



Zhang Y, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2017

— Updated EULAR recommendation for diagnosis —

Published - January 2020

e-Published - June 2019

Evidence Update - July 2018



«Step-by-Step»
Approach

Step 1

Richette P, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2020.



Search for crystals in SF or tophus aspirates is recommended in **every person with suspected gout**, because demonstration of MSU crystals allows a definitive diagnosis of gout.



It is strongly recommended that synovial fluid aspiration and examination for crystals is undertaken **in any patient with undiagnosed inflammatory arthritis**.

Step 2

Richette P, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2020.

When SF analysis is **not feasible**,

a **clinical diagnosis** of gout is supported by

- monoarticular involvement of a foot (especially the first MTP) or ankle joint;
- previous similar acute arthritis episodes;
- rapid onset of severe pain and swelling (at its worst in <24 hours);
- erythema;
- male gender and associated cardiovascular diseases and hyperuricaemia.

These features are **highly suggestive but not specific** for gout.

Gout: classification criteria

Performance may be affected
by disease duration

Peláez-Ballestas, et al. J Rheumatol 2010.
Janssens HJEM, et al. Arch Intern Med 2010.
Neogi T, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2015.
Taylor WJ, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2016.
Jatuworapruk K, et al. Medicine 2016.
Louthrenoo W, et al. Rheumatol Int 2017.

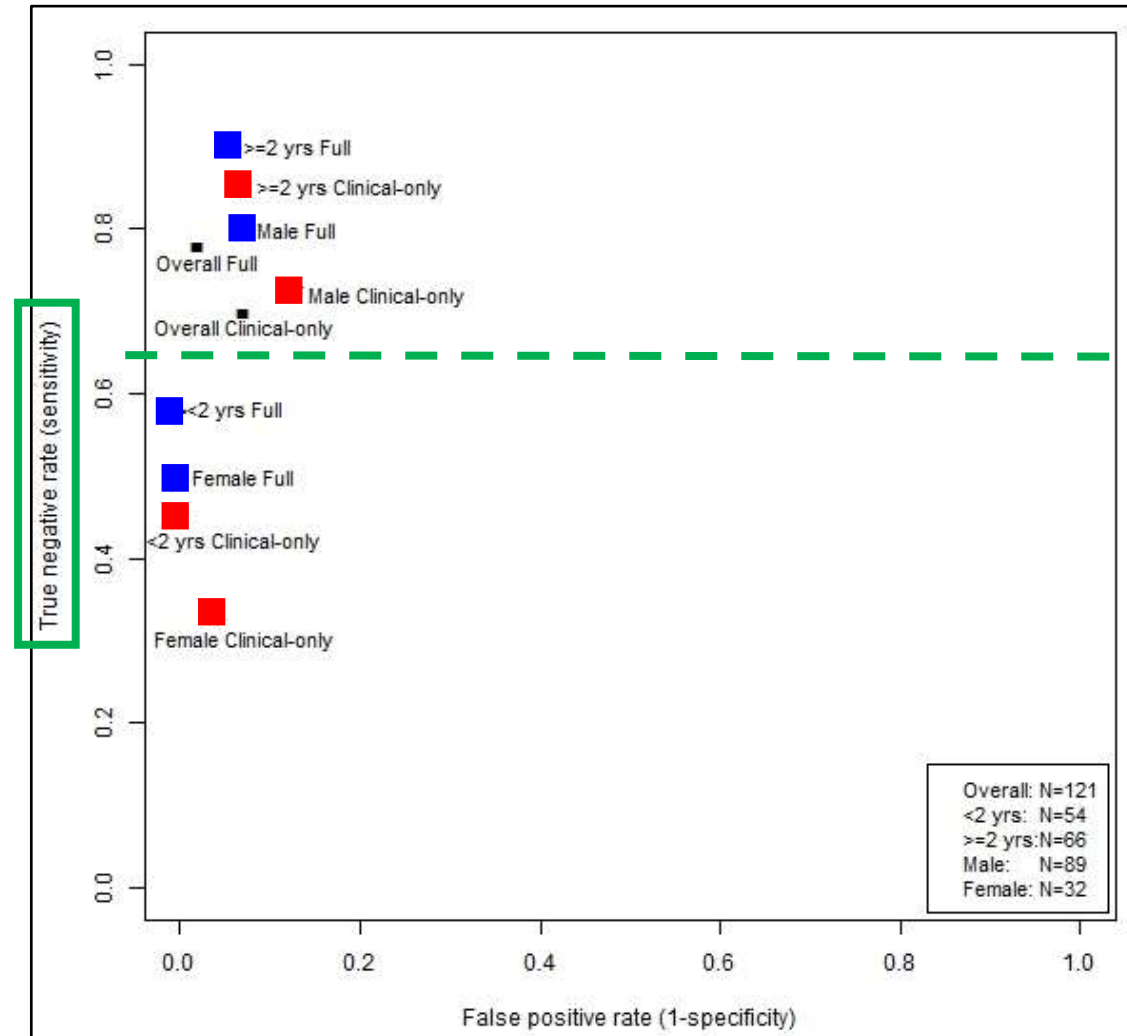
Criteria Set	Sensitivity	Specificity
Mexico, 2010		
Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2016		
Less than 2 years	0.87	0.66
More than 2 years	0.98	0.34
Jatuworapruk <i>et al.</i> 2016		
Less than 2 years	0.88	0.81
More than 2 years	0.99	0.30
Netherlands, 2010		
Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2016		
Less than 2 years	0.87	0.75
More than 2 years	0.96	0.47
Jatuworapruk <i>et al.</i> 2016		
Less than 2 years	0.73	0.85
More than 2 years	0.91	0.50
ACR/Eular, 2015		
Louthrenoo <i>et al.</i> 2017		
Clinical only		
Less than 2 years	0.74	0.91
More than 2 years	0.82	0.80
Full set (with imaging)		
Less than 2 years	0.90	0.85
More than 2 years	0.91	0.75

Gout: classification criteria



Performance may be affected
by **disease duration** and **gender**

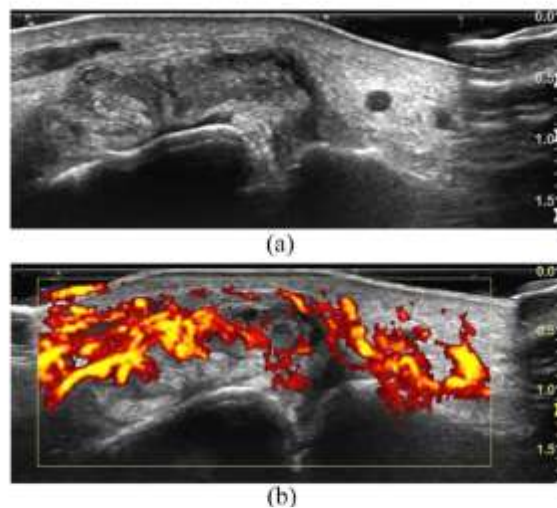
Unpublished results



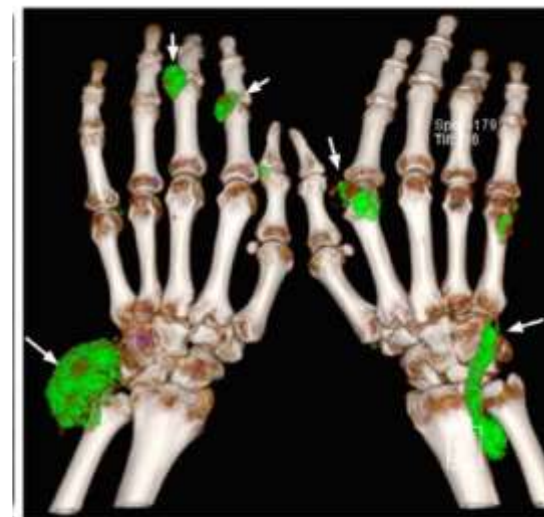
Step 3

Richette P, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2020.

When a clinical diagnosis of gout is **uncertain** and crystal identification is not possible,
patients should be **investigated by imaging** to search for **MSU crystal deposition** and features of any alternative diagnosis.



Which? still uncertainties!



Davies J, et al. Ther Adv Musculoskel Dis. 2019.

Gout: plain X-ray



Davies J, et al. Ther Adv Musculoskel Dis. 2019



Neogi T, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2015.

to search for imaging evidence of MSU crystal deposition but have **limited value** for the diagnosis of **gout flare**.

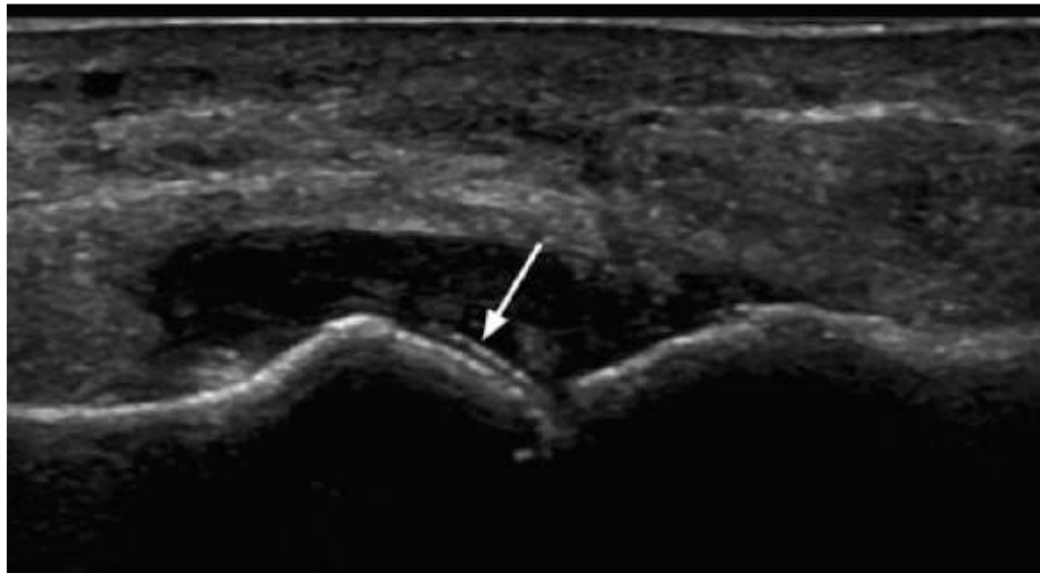
Richette P, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2020.

Gout: ultrasonography

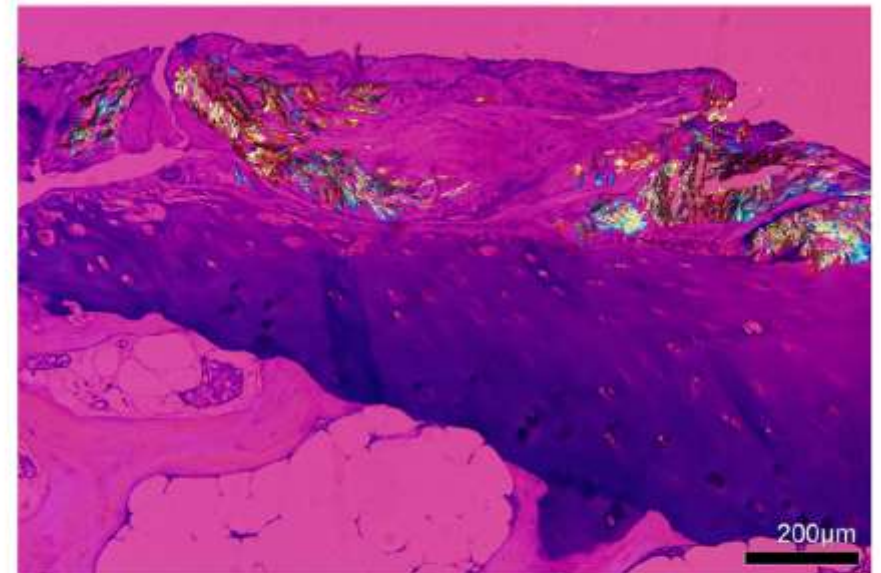
helpful in establishing a diagnosis (gout flare or chronic gouty arthritis)

- detection of tophi not evident on clinical examination,
- double contour sign at cartilage surfaces

High Specificity



Davies J, et al. Ther Adv Musculoskel Dis. 2019

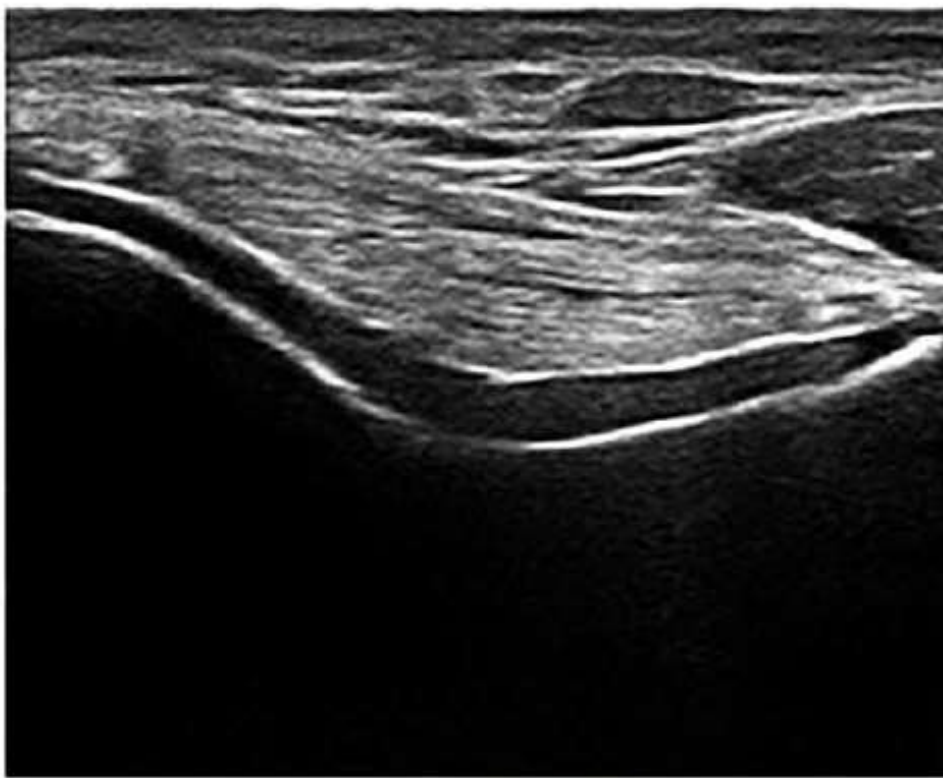


Towiwat et al. BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. 2019

Gout: ultrasonography

High Specificity

GOUT



Neogi T, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2015.

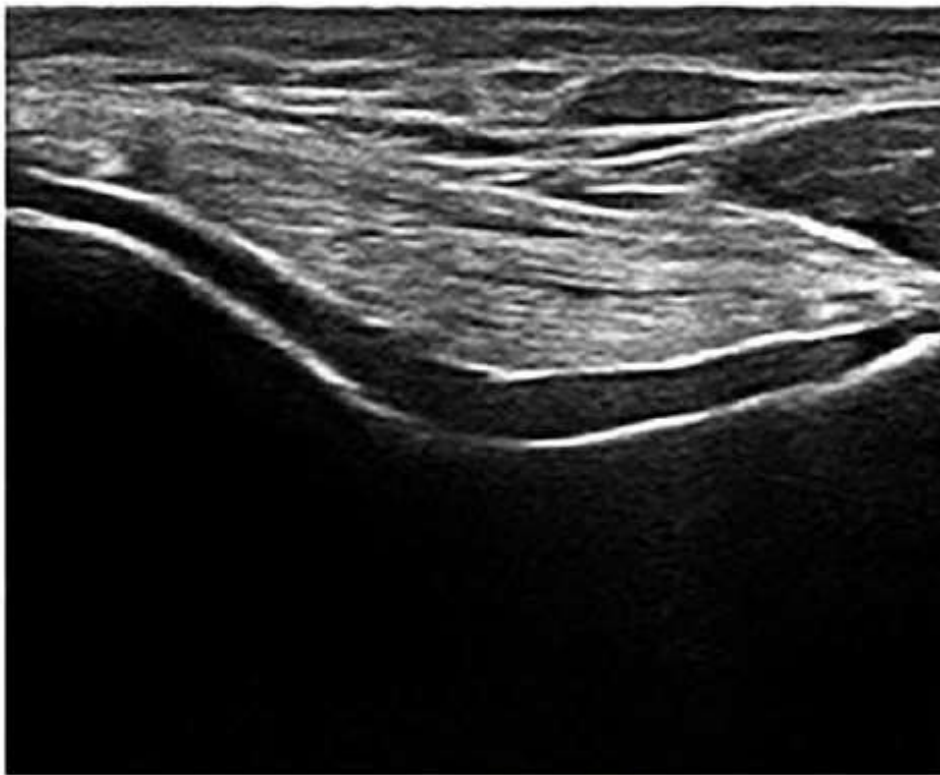
Gout: ultrasonography

High Specificity

GOUT



CPPD



Neogi T, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2015.

Gout: ultrasonography

Sensitivity !

Table 4 Sensitivity and specificity of US features for the diagnosis of gout

	Sensitivity	Specificity
Tophus		
Ogdie <i>et al</i> 2015 ⁴³ MA *	0.65 (0.34–0.87)	0.80 (0.38–0.96)
Ogdie <i>et al</i> 2017 ⁵¹		
Early disease (<2 years)	0.33 (0.25–0.43)	0.95 (0.91–0.97)
Late disease (≥2 years)	0.50 (0.44–0.56)	0.95 (0.91–0.97)
Double contour sign		
Ogdie <i>et al</i> 2015 ⁴³ MA†	0.83 (0.72–0.91)	0.76 (0.68–0.83)
Ogdie <i>et al</i> 2017 ⁵¹		
Early disease (<2 years)	0.50 (0.41–0.60)	0.92 (0.87–0.95)
Late disease (≥2 years)	0.63 (0.57–0.68)	0.91 (0.86–0.94)
Snowstorm appearance		
Ogdie <i>et al</i> 2017 ⁵¹		
Early disease (<2 years)	0.32 (0.23–0.42)	0.90 (0.85–0.94)
Late disease (≥2 years)	0.29 (0.24–0.35)	0.92 (0.89–0.94)

Richette P, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2020.



17-25% positive in asymptomatic hyperuricemia !

Pineda C, et al. Arthritis Res Therapy. 2011.

— Gout: Hyperuricemia & Diagnosis —

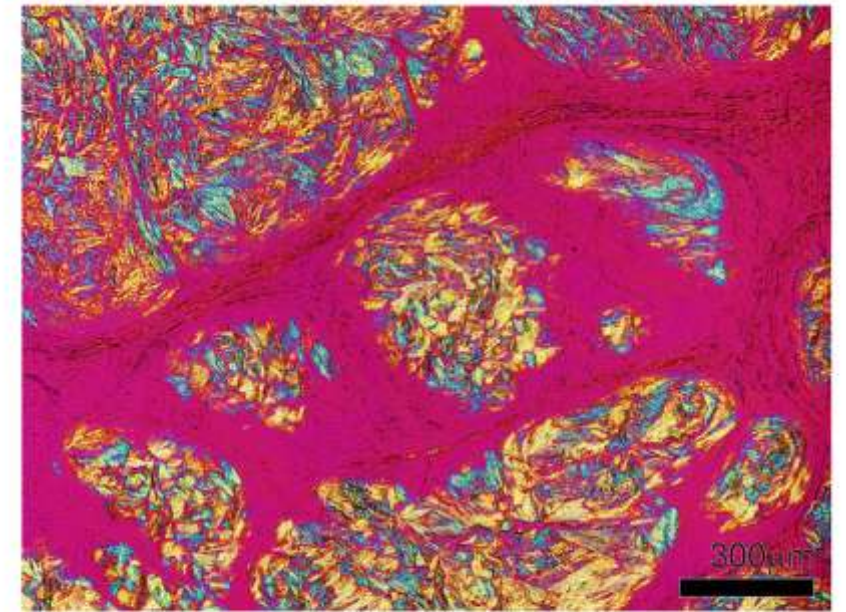
The diagnosis of gout
should not be made
on the presence of
hyperuricaemia alone.

Richette P, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2020.



strong risk factor

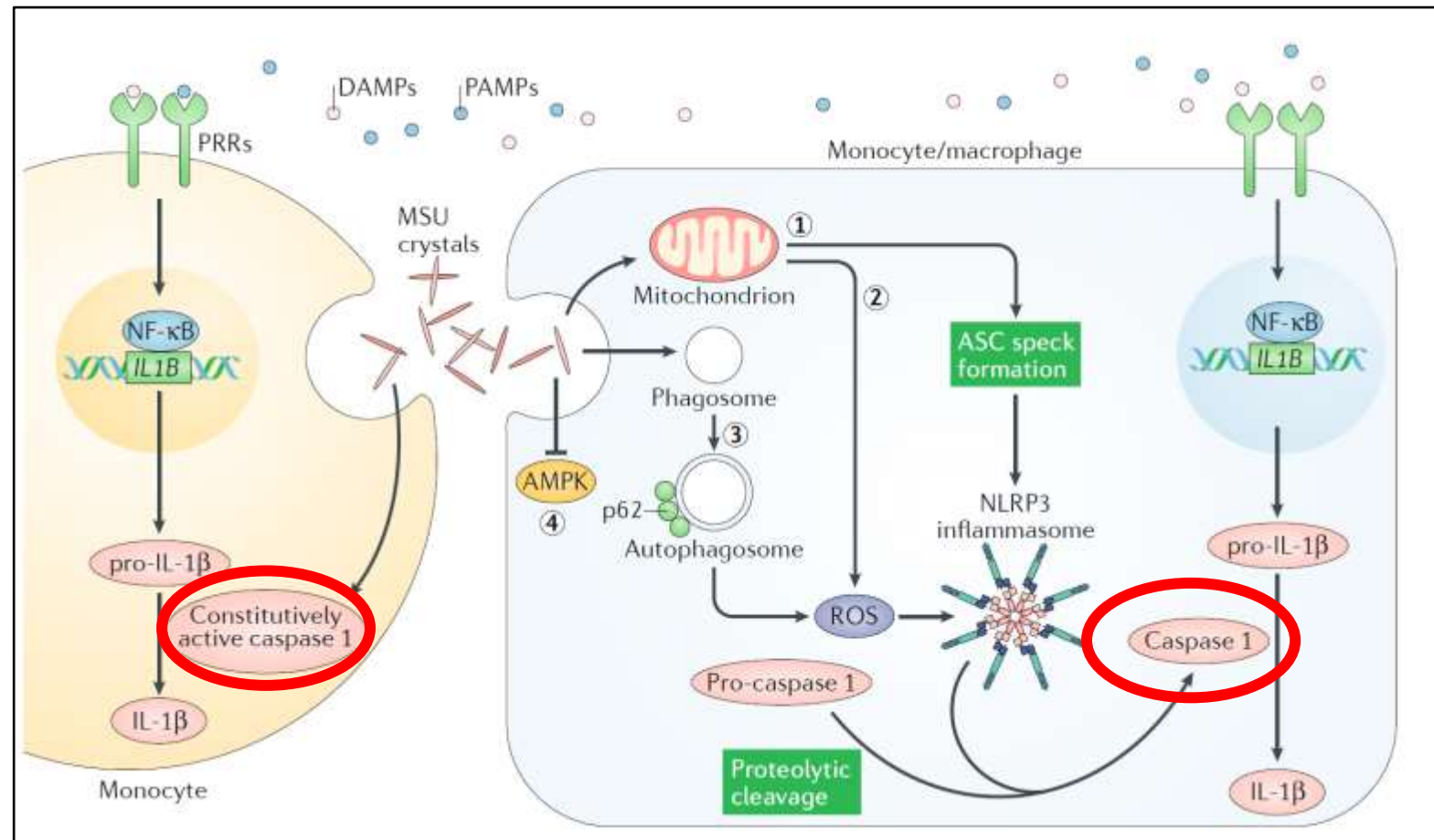
NOT as a surrogate marker for diagnosis.



Towiwat P, et al. BMC Musculoskelet Disord. 2019

Gout: Hyperuricemia & Pathogenesis

Inflammasome- **dependent** activation of IL-1 β in response to **MSU crystals**



— Gout: Unsolved physiopathological questions —

1) Factors that **trigger** the symptomatic inflammatory?

Hyperuricaemia and MSU deposits are **necessary but not sufficient** to trigger full-blown inflammation.

2) When an attack resolves, **crystals still remain in the tissues** (intercritical gout) with a low-grade **systemic inflammatory response** in the absence of symptoms?



Step 4

Richette P, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2020.

Comorbidity Assessment

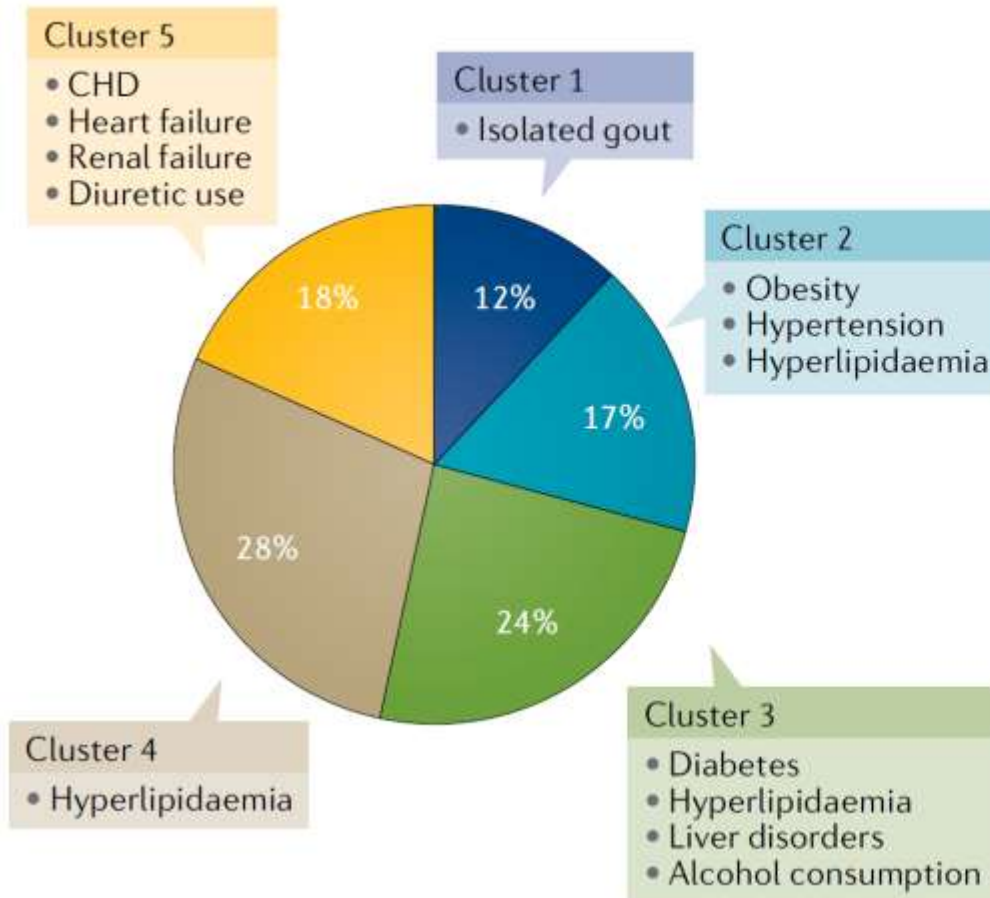
Associated:

- Obesity
- Renal Impairment
- Hypertension
- Ischaemic heart disease
- Heart failure
- Diabetes
- Dyslipidaemia.

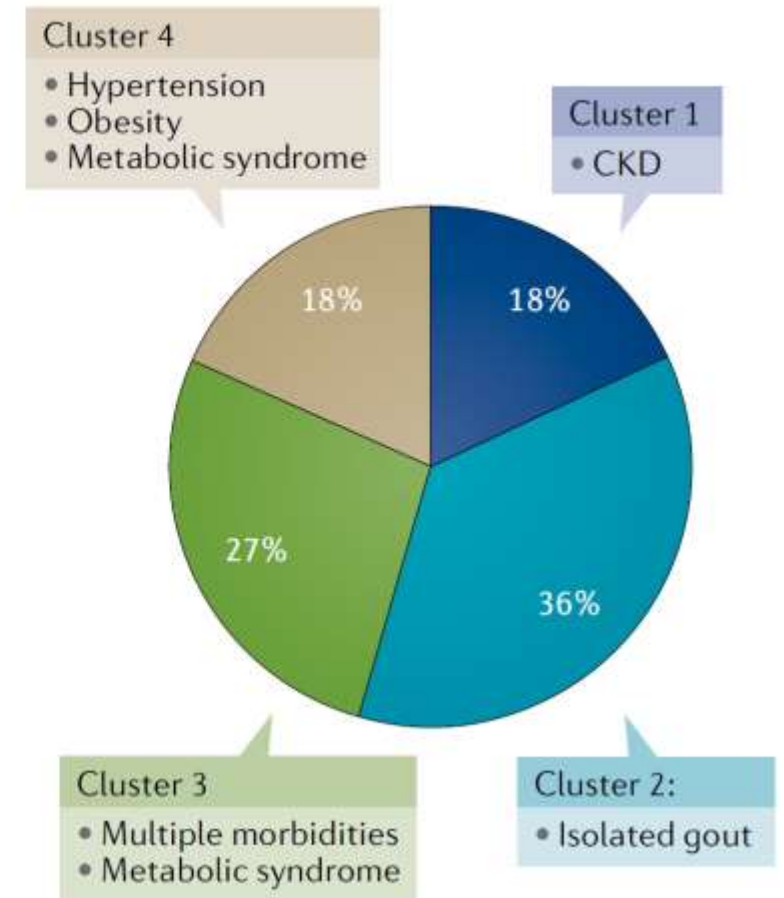


— Patterns of comorbidity clustering in gout —

France



UK



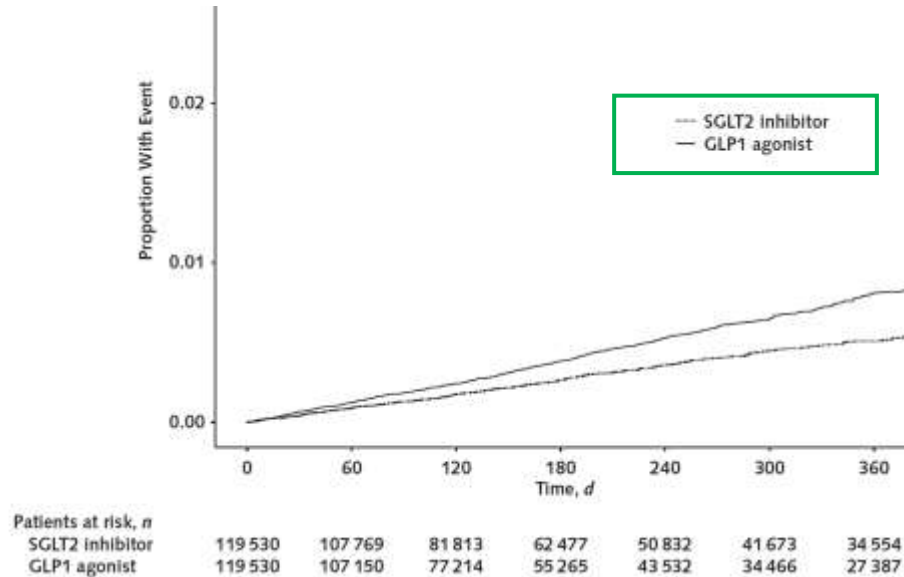
- Gout, Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome -



Gout & Diabetes

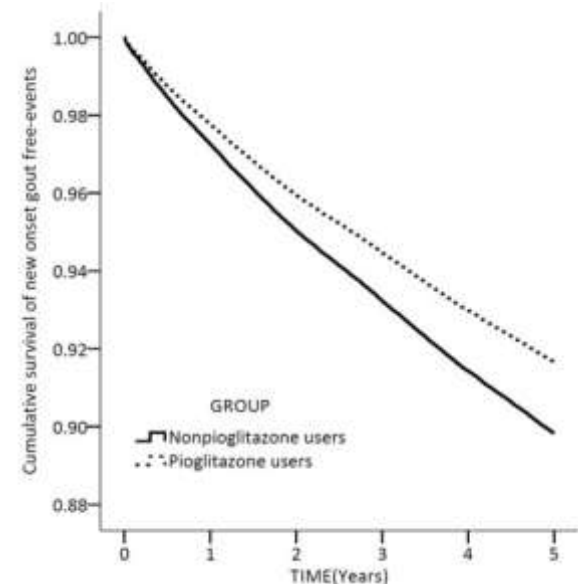
The Risk for Gout With Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter-2 Inhibitors in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes

Michael Fralick, Ann Intern Med. 2020



Decreased incidence of gout in diabetic patients using pioglitazone

Sheng-Wen Niu, Rheumatology 2018





**Urate-
lowering
therapy**

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is red and contains the text 'Urate-lowering therapy' in white. The right circle is yellow and contains the text 'Gout flare' in black. The overlapping area in the center is a lighter orange color.

**Gout
flare**

Gout: Treatment

— Clinical Practice Guidelines —



Le linee guida per la pratica clinica della Società Italiana di Reumatologia (SIR) sulla diagnosi e sul trattamento della gotta

Ughi N, et al. Reumatismo. 2019.



2020 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Guideline for the Management of Gout

FitzGerald JD, et al. Arthritis Care Res. 2020.

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —



ACR 2020

Start ULT

SIR 2019



≥ 2/year gout flares



Do's

≥ 1 tophus

Radiographic damage

≥ 1 gout flare and <2 episodes/year

SUA >9 mg/dL

Urolithiasis

First flare & CKD stage ≥3



Do's

Recurrent flares (>2/year)

tophus

Urate arthropathy (joint damage)

SUA >8 mg/dL

renal stones

Comorbidities (renal impairment,

hypertension, ischemic heart

disease, heart failure)

Diuretic therapy

Diagnosis < 40 years



Don'ts

Asymptomatic hyperuricemia

First flare with CKD stage <3

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —



ACR 2020

First-line ULT

SIR 2019



Do's

Allopurinol
≤ 100 mg/day (lower in CKD)

During the gout flare



Do's

Allopurinol
≤ 100 mg/day (lower in CKD)

best **delayed** until
inflammation has settled

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —



ACR 2020

First-line ULT

SIR 2019



Do's

Allopurinol
≤ 100 mg/day (lower in CKD)

During the gout flare



Do's

Allopurinol
≤ 100 mg/day (lower in CKD)

best **delayed** until
inflammation has settled

Flare prophylaxis



Do's

Yes, 3 to 6 months
Colchicine = NSAIDs = prednisone



Do's

Yes, 3 to 6 months
Colchicine > NSAIDs > prednisone

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —



ACR 2020

Target

SIR 2019



Do's

Treat-to-target strategy
SUA <6 mg/dL
Life-long therapy



Do's

Treat-to-target strategy
SUA <6 mg/dL (if tophi < 5 mg/dL)
Life-long therapy



Don'ts

SUA < 3 mg/dL

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —



ACR 2020

Second-line ULT

SIR 2019



Do's

[1^o XOI > 2^o XOI > XOI+uricosuric



Do's



1^o XOI > 2^o XOI or XOI+uricosuric

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —



ACR 2020

Second-line ULT

SIR 2019



Do's

1^o XOI > 2^o XOI > XOI+uricosuric



Do's

1^o XOI > 2^o XOI **or** XOI+uricosuric

Pegloticase



Do's

Failure of XOI treatment, uricosurics, and other interventions AND frequent gout flares (≥ 2 flares/year) OR who have nonresolving subcutaneous tophi

«only in patients with severe gout in whom all other forms of therapy have failed or are contraindicated»

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —

Febuxostat WARNING

NOTA INFORMATIVA IMPORTANTE CONCORDATA CON LE AUTORITÀ REGOLATORIE EUROPEE
E L'AGENZIA ITALIANA DEL FARMACO (AIFA)

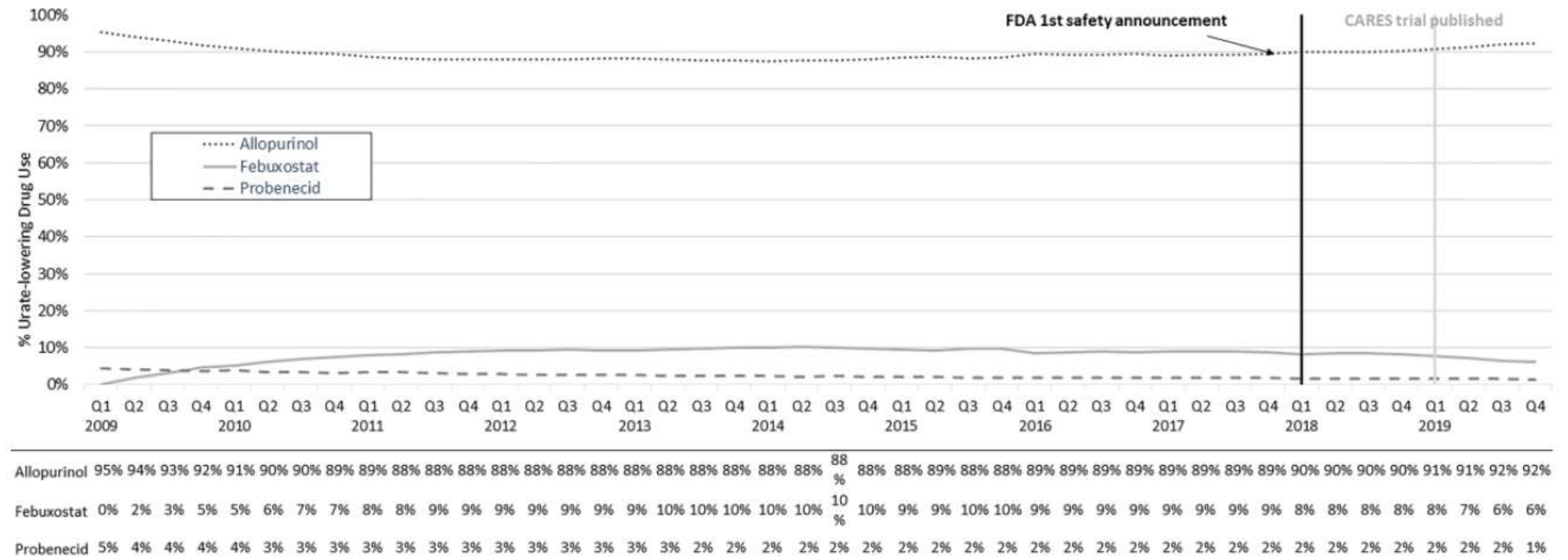
27 Giugno 2019

ADENURIC (febuxostat): aumento del rischio di morte cardiovascolare e mortalità per qualsiasi causa nei pazienti trattati con febuxostat nell'ambito dello studio CARES

«Il trattamento con febuxostat nei pazienti con malattia CV importante preesistente (ad esempio infarto miocardico, ictus o angina instabile) deve essere evitato, tranne quando non siano disponibili altre opzioni terapeutiche adeguate.»

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —

Febuxostat WARNING



SC Kim, et al. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2020.

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —

Lesinurad
WITHDRAWAL

30 June 2020

"The withdrawal is not related to any efficacy, safety or clinical concerns"

— Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) —



ACR 2020

Life-style

SIR 2019



Do's

Limiting alcohol, purine, high-fructose intake
Weight loss



Don'ts

Adding vitamin C supplementation



Do's

Reducing excess body weight,
performing regular exercise, giving
up smoking, avoiding excess
alcohol, high purine foods, and
sugar-sweetened
drinks containing fructose

Expected effect on SUA → **1 mg/dl reduction only !**

Emmerson BT, et al. Lancet 1991.

Gout flare management

Flare



ACR 2020



Do's

Low dose colchicine = NSAIDs =
glucocorticoids (oral, intraarticular
or intramuscular)

→ *Patient factors!*



Do's

Low dose colchicine **and/or** an
NSAID or COXIB, oral corticosteroid,
articular aspiration, injection of
corticosteroids.

→ *Patient factors!*

SIR 2019



Gout flare management

Flare



ACR 2020



Do's

Low dose colchicine = NSAIDs =
glucocorticoids (oral, intraarticular
or intramuscular)

→ *Patient factors!*

IL-1 inhibitors **only for whom**
antiinflammatory therapies are
poorly tolerated or contraindicated



Do's

Low dose colchicine **and/or** an
NSAID or COXIB, oral corticosteroid,
articular aspiration, injection of
corticosteroids.

→ *Patient factors!*

IL-1 inhibitors **only in** non-
responders and in patients with
contraindications

SIR 2019



Gout flare management

Flare



ACR 2020



Do's

Low dose colchicine = NSAIDs =
glucocorticoids (oral, intraarticular
or intramuscular)

→ *Patient factors!*

IL-1 inhibitors **only for whom**
antiinflammatory therapies are
poorly tolerated or contraindicated

Topical ice as adjuvant treatment



Do's

Low dose colchicine **and/or** an
NSAID or COXIB, oral corticosteroid,
articular aspiration, injection of
corticosteroids.

→ *Patient factors!*

IL-1 inhibitors **only in** non-
responders and in patients with
contraindications

rest, elevation and exposure in a
cool environment of affected joints
as well as bed-cages and ice-packs

SIR 2019



Gout management

Co-prescriptions

Effects on SUA levels

Avoid hydrochlorothiazide when feasible

Prefer losartan when feasible

Avoid stopping low-dose aspirin

Avoid adding/switching to fenofibrate

Avoid colchicine + cyclosporin or clarithromycin

Avoid colchicine in CKD and during statin treatment

Avoid allopurinol/febuxostat + azathioprine

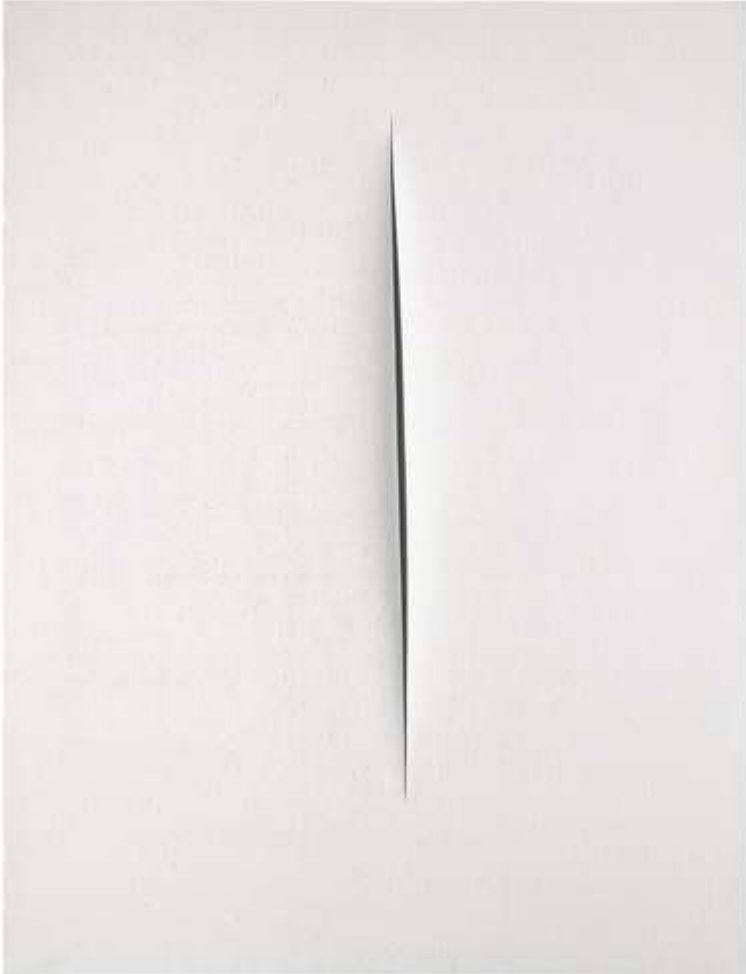
Adverse Events

Take Home Messages



- ➔ Aim at a definite diagnosis!
Rheumatologists CAN and SHOULD perform synovial fluid analysis during gout flare to detect MSU crystals
- ➔ Start ULT as soon as possible in patients with gout and recurrent flares
- ➔ Check the compliance!
- ➔ Treat-to-target strategy:
6 (mg/dl) is the «MAGIC NUMBER»

Grazie per l'attenzione



"Scoprire il Cosmo è scoprire una nuova dimensione.

E' scoprire l'Infinito.

Così, bucando questa tela – che è la base di tutta la pittura
– ho creato una dimensione infinita.

Qualcosa che per me è la base di tutta l'arte
contemporanea".

Lucio Fontana (1899-1968)

Nicola Ughi

Medico specialista in Reumatologia
Biostatistico
ASST G.O.M. Niguarda (MI)